June privately urged him to begin talks with Pakistan to lessen their tensions over their respective nuclear programme; if so, what is the truth in this report; and

(b) whether the President had also advised Prime Minister Benezir to begin 'more active' talks with Indian Government on nuclear issue; if so, whether the Government of India finds any positive response from Pakistan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government have seen the reports, which appear inaccurate and speculative.

World Bank's Assistance for modernising technical education

932. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking two-five hundred million dollar from World Bank for modernisation and diversification of technical and polytechnical education in the country; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what are the areas where the projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) The Government are exploring the possibility of securing World Bank assistance to strengthen and modernise the polytechnic education system in the country. Discussions are being held with World Bank and State Governments for the preparation of a detailed project proposal indicating the quantum of assistance, institutions/ areas to be covered etc.

Suggestions for amending the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

933. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU:
SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
THAKUR JAGATPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new Motor Vehicles Act came into effect from July, 1989;

(b) if so, whether a number of suggestions have been given for amending the Act;

(c) if answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the total number of suggestions received by Government in this regard;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to implemet the Act; and

(e) what measures are being taken to check the rising prices as a result of implementation of the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Suggestions received pertain to provisions of the M.V. Act 1988 and the rules made thereunder. These relate to qualifications for the driving licence or age limits for vehicles, fitment of direction indicators in the motor cycles, overloading of vehicles, strictness in vehicle fitness and amounts of fees and fines in respect of traffic violations.

(d) Executive responsibility to implement provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act is vested in the State Governments/UT Administrations. They have been advised to organize implementation. Wide publicity has been given through Press/T.V./Radio regarding salient features of the provisions for information of the public.

(e) Implementation of the provisions of the M.V. Act, 1988 is not expected to result in any overall increase in prices as any possible increase due to requirement of some additions of components to the vehicles would get offset due to savings by reducing in breakdowns, injuries fatalities, road-damage and incidence of diseases connected with pollution. There should also be savings in fuel consumptions.

Pay scales of the teachers of K.V.S. and Navodaya Vidyalayas compared to those in States

984. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pay scales of different categories of teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas compare unfavourably with those in some of the States; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to bring these scales at par with those in the States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Government of India announced on 12th August, 1987 the revised pay-scales for school teachers of union territories and various central autonomous bodies. While announcing these pay scales, the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission, report of the Cattopadhyaya Commission and the postulates of National Education Policy were kept in view. The pay scale for school teachers working under State Governments vary from State to State. Hence, it is not possible to draw an exact comparison with the pay-scale prescribed by the various State Governments.

Sanctioning of Sethu Samundram Canal Project

985. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendations of the expert committee on Sethu Samundram Canal Project; and

(b) whether Government are considering sanctioning of this project in view of the appearance of new dimension of strategic phenomenon in the Indian Ocean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Testing of Missile by Pakistan

986. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th July, 1989 wherein it has been stated that Pakistan Missiles with 10 Km. range has been tested;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR